

Date Mailed  
April 7, 1999

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

1999 Report to the Joint Committee on Information Policy  
Regarding the Status of Investment in Advanced  
Telecommunications Infrastructure

05-ST-108

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING**

Comments Due:  
**May 4, 1999 – Noon**

FAX:  
**May 3, 1999 – Noon**

Address Comments To:  
Scot Cullen, Administrator  
Telecommunications Division  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854  
FAX (608) 266-3957

**THIS IS A PROCEEDING ON** the Commission's own motion, to gather information needed for a report describing the status of investments in advanced telecommunications infrastructure in Wisconsin. The next biennial report<sup>1</sup> to the Joint Committee on Information Policy, mandated by Wis. Stat. § 196.196(5)(f), must be submitted before January 1, 2000. The statute specifies that the report include information on the progress made in the following areas:

- a. Distance learning, including the number of schools and other educational institutions connected to distance learning networks.
- b. Interconnection of libraries, including the number of libraries with video conferencing and network access capabilities.
- c. Access to health care.
- d. Education, health care and employment opportunities for the disabled and other persons in the home.
- e. Integrated services digital network (ISDN) deployment.

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<sup>1</sup> The 1997 Biennial Report to the Joint Committee on Information Policy is available on the PSC web site at <http://www.psc.state.wi.us/writings/papers/tele/infra97/cover.htm>. The report is titled "Status of Investments in Advanced Telecommunications Infrastructure" December 1997.

- f. Other infrastructure investments identified by the Commission.

The Commission is also required to include in the report recommendations for improving the progress of investments in advanced telecommunications infrastructure.

The Commission intends to report on the progress in the deployment of advanced telecommunications services by comparing more recent information on the availability and use of these services with the information contained in the 1995 and 1997 reports. To facilitate this comparison, the body of the report will again contain three sections. The first section will focus on the use of the telecommunications infrastructure in areas a, b, c, and d above. The second section will measure progress in the deployment of ISDN and other advanced technologies. The final section will contain recommendations for improving the investment in the infrastructure. At this time, the Commission does not intend to hold a hearing on this docket.

To complete the report, the Commission will again need input from providers and users of advanced telecommunications services in Wisconsin. Help in gathering data on distance education, libraries, health care, and the use of telecommunications to improve access to services for persons with disabilities will be particularly useful. To assist with this process, comments are being solicited on the usefulness of the first two reports, areas that need to be improved, additional topics that may be of interest to the legislature regarding the deployment and use of advanced telecommunications infrastructure, and on sources to contact for information. In addition, a data request similar to those used in the last two reports will be sent to telecommunications providers in the state to obtain current information on specific areas of advanced technologies and infrastructure.

Any person may submit written comments on this proceeding. The record will be open for written comments from the public effective immediately, until **May 4, 1999, at noon (or May 3, 1999 at noon**, if filed by fax). Address comments as shown in the box on page 1 and include the docket number 05-ST-108. Industry parties should submit **an original and 4 copies**. Members of the general public need only file **an original**. If filing by fax, state "**Official Filing**," the docket number (05-ST-108), and the number of pages (limited to 20 pages for fax filings).

A list of participants providing written comments, with names of contact people, will be available upon request by contacting Judith Klug, case coordinator, at (608) 267-1204 or *Klugj@psc.state.wi.us*. on or after May 7, 1999. Individuals are expected to make their own arrangements to obtain copies of the comments submitted, either directly from those submitting the comments or from the Commission's Records Management Unit at (608) 261-8524. There may be a charge for copies. Other questions regarding this notice or the report should also be directed to Ms. Klug.

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The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact

Ms. Klug at the above-stated number. Hearing-or speech-impaired individuals may also use the Commission's TTY number, (608) 267-1479.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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cc: Records Management/Mail  
Lynda Dorr, PSC